

Message Text

SECRET

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY S/S:PSBRIDGES
APPROVED BY S/S:PSBRIDGES
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P 162107Z JUL 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 176906

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 9673 ACTION SECSTATE 16 JUL QUOTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 9673

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR, US, LE
SUBJECT: EVACUATION FROM LEBANON

REF: STATE 176288

1. I MANAGED TO GET FAHMY AT HIS APRTMENT EARLY THIS
EVENING AND GAVE HIM YOUR MESSAGE. HE READ IT CAREFULLYN
NOTING AS HE WAS DOING SO THAT HE HAD HEARD ON THE RADIO
THIS AFTERNOON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF OUR PROPOSED EVACUATION.
AFTER HE HAD READ IT, I ALSO READ TO HIM THOSE PORTIONS OF
JIDDA 4855 REPORTING FAHD'S RECOMMENDATIONS THAT WE
EVACUATE BEIRUT. HERE AGAIN HE LISTENED VERY CAREFULLY,
BUT MADE NO COMMENT ON FAHD'S OBSERVATIONS. YOUR MESSAGE,
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INCIDENTALLY, SEEMED TO RE-ASSURE HIM CONSIDERABLY THAT

WE HAVE NO ULTERIOR PURPOSE IN EVACUATING FROM BEIRUT.

2. ASKED IF HE HAD YET HAD A REPLY FROM THE PLO, HE SAID HE HAD NOT. THIS TIME, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WAS REALLY NOT EXPECTING ANY DIRECT REPLY. THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT IS INSTRUCTED TO KEEP CONTACT WITH THE PLO AND ANY PLO RESPONSE WILL COME THROUGH HIM. SHOULD THE EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR ENCOUNTER DIFFICULTIES WITH THE PLO. HE WOULD INFORM FAHMY SO THAT THE LATTER CAN TAKE WHATEVER FOLLOW-UP ACTION IS NECESSARY. FAHMY AGAIN STRESSED THAT HE IS CONFIDENT THAT THE PLO WILL COOPERATE IN EVERY WAY, AS THEY DID LAST MONTH, AND THAT WE SHOULD COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE PLO IN BEIRUT THROUGH THE SECURITY CHANNEL.

3. I TOLD HIM THAT WE HAVE HAD SOME DISCUSSION IN BEIRUT BETWEEN OUR SECURITY OFFICER AND A PLO SECURITY OFFICIAL. I ALSO MENTIONED THAT WE HAVE HAD CONFLICTING ADVICE FROM VARIOUS PARTIES AS TO THE BEST WAY TO EVACUATE. DID HE HAVE ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS ON THE SUBJECT? AFTER PONDERING FOR SOME LITTLE WHILE, FAHMY OBSERVED THAT THE AIRPORT WOULD BE GOOD IF WE COULD PERSUADE THE KATAIB TO STOP SHELLING. HE CONCEDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE DANGER OF SOME "MADMAN" IN THE HILLS SHOOTING A SAM MISSILE AT THE AIRCRAFT CANNOT BE ENTIRELY ELIMINATED. HE WAS SKEPTICAL OF AN OVERLAND OPTION AND FINALLY COMMENTED THAT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, HE THOUGHT THAT A SEA EVACUATION, EITHER FROM BEIRUT OR SIDON, IS PROBABLY BEST. THE PLO WOULD COOPERATE. HE SUGGESTED THAT WE HANDLE SUCH A SEA EVACUATION THE SAME WAY WE DID THE LAST TIME, USING, IF NECESSARY, A NAVAL VESSEL. HAVING ONCE DONE SO SUCCESSFULLY, HE THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE NO ADVERSE REACTING TO HANDLING IT THE SAME WAY.

4. SINCE FAHMY IS LEAVING TOMORROW WITH THE PRESIDENT FOR JIDDA (NOT RIYADH), I ASKED HOW WE COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH HIM OR THE PRESIDENT SHOULD A NEED ARISE IN CONNECTION WITH THE EVACUATION FROM LEBANON OR SOME OTHER MATTER. FAHMY SUGGESTED WE COMMUNICATE ANY SUCH MESSAGES EITHER THROUGH MOHAMED RIAD OR VP MUBARAK, DEPENDING UPON THE SENSITIVITY

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OF THE MESSAGE.

5. SUGGEST THIS MESSAGE BE REPEATED TO BEIRUT AND JIDDA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMERGENCY EVACUATION, CITIZEN PROTECTION, CAT-A, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN INTEREST REPRESENTATION, PROTECTIVE SERVICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE176906
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PSBRIDGES
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: N760004-0683
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760749/aaaabqpl.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 76 STATE 176288
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EVACUATION FROM LEBANON
TAGS: AEMR, PFOR, US, LE, EG, PLO, (FAHMY, ISMAIL), (FAHD, PRINCE)
To: BEIRUT JIDDA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006